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## **DID YOU KNOW?**

### **Quick Facts About Child Passenger Safety**

Remember to read and follow your vehicle owner's manual and car seat instructions carefully. For more information regarding child passenger safety, please contact the Automotive Safety Program at 800/KID-N-CAR or visit [www.preventinjury.org](http://www.preventinjury.org) or [www.in.gov/cji](http://www.in.gov/cji).

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children age 1 to 15 years old.

In 2003, there were a total of 42,643 traffic fatalities in the United States. The 0-14 age group accounted for 5 percent (2,136) of those traffic fatalities. In addition, children under 15 years old accounted for 4 percent (1,591) of all vehicle occupant fatalities, 9 percent (253,000) of all the people injured in motor vehicle crashes, and 8 percent (220,000) of all the vehicle occupants injured in crashes.

In the United States, an average of 6 children 0-14 years old were killed and 694 were injured every day in motor vehicle crashes during 2003.

Fifteen percent of children involved in car crashes are injured in some way.

From 1975 through 2002, an estimated 6,567 lives were saved by the use of child restraints (child safety seats or adult belts).

Proper use of child safety seats reduces fatal injury by 71 percent for infants and 54 percent for toddlers (1-4 years old) in passenger cars.

In Indiana, nearly 90 percent of child safety seats are improperly installed.

The three most common mistakes made with child safety seats are: 1) Not attaching the seat tightly to the car or truck; 2) Not fastening the harness tightly enough; and 3) Not using the chest clip or using it incorrectly.

Infants in rear-facing seats should never be placed in front of air bags. Air bags can kill and severely injure infants and young children.

Children, as they grow, should progress through three types of child safety seats before using the seat belt alone: from rear-facing seats to forward facing seats to booster seats.

Children who are not buckled up are three times more likely to suffer a significant injury in a crash than children who are buckled up. Significant injuries include brain injuries, fractures and damage to internal organs.

Eighty-three percent of children between the ages of four and eight are inappropriately placed in adult seat belts.

In Indiana, children under 8 years old must be properly secured in child safety seats or booster seats.

Seat belt and child safety restraint use isn't just a good idea: It's the law.